

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SALT T 01440 051527Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2245

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 1440

EXDIS/SALT

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDSI

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON MARCH 5 MEETING (SALT TWO--394)

1. AT TODAY'S MEETING I MADE STATEMENT AMPLIFYING RATIONALE FOR OUR POSITION ON MIRVED ICBMS AND ENDED WITH STATEMENT ON OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER LIMITATIONS ON MIRVED SLBM THROW-WEIGHT, IF SOVIETS AGREE TO EQUAL LIMITS ON MIRVED ICBM THROW-WEIGHT. (IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE CONVERSATION, I TOLD SEMENOV THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR MARCH 1 CONVERSATION, I HOPED SHORTLY TO DEAL WITH QUESTION OF POTENTIAL OF CENTRAL SYSTEMS INCLUDING BOMBERS. HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT IN MANY WAYS HE OFTEN CONSIDERED WHAT I SAID TO HIM PRIVATELY MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT I SAID IN MY STATEMENTS.) SEMENOV'S STATEMENT (WHICH IN PRIVATE MEETING HE CHARACTERIZED AS EFFORT ON HIS PART TO CONTINUE TO GIVE ME A CLEAR FIELD TO PRESENT OUR POSITION) WAS ENTIRELY CONFINED TO ARTICLE X OF THEIR OCTOBER 9 DRAFT ON "OTHER STRATEGIC SYSTEMS." HIS PRESENTATION WAS IN STANDARD TERMS, AND HE GAVE ME A SLIGHTLY REVISED VERSION OF A DRAFT ARTICLE. ROWNY ANSWERED TRUSOV'S MARCH 1 QUESTION BY SAYING WE SHOULD STICK TO CENTRAL ISSUE OF CENTRAL SYSTEMS, AND I POINTED OUT AT THE TABLE THAT ROWNY'S STATEMENT ALSO HAD

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SECRET

PAGE 02 SALT T 01440 051527Z

"CERTAIN APPLICABILITY" SEMENOV'S STATEMENT TODAY.

BELITSKY MADE LONG PEDESTRIAN AND BOILER-PLATE STATEMENT
RITERATING THEIR POSITION ON FBS.

2. IN OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATION I REFERRED TO CHART ON SOVIET ICBM R AND D, WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO CHULITSKY AT PREVIOUS MEETING, SAYING I HOPED THAT SEMENOV HAD STUDIED IT BECAUSE, IN ADDITION TO MY STATEMENT TODAY, I THOUGHT THAT THIS WELL DRAMATIZED THE NECESSITY FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION TO THE MIRVED ICBM QUESTION. SEMENOV SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE CHART.

3. REFERRING TO "FORTHCOMING MOSCOW MEETING" SEMENOV ASKED FOR MY PLANS AND INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO OUR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. I REPLIED THAT I HOPED SUBSTANTIALLY TO WIND UP THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR POSITION BY MARCH 8 MEETING, OR AT THE LATEST MARCH 12, AND IN ANY EVENT ON MARCH 12 PLANNED TO DO A SUMMARY AND ROUND-UP OF MY PRESENTATIONS. HE SAID THAT ON MARCH 8 HE PLANNED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION ON THE "SOVIET CONSIDERATIONS" ON MIRVS AND THROW-WEIGHT AND ASKED ME TO PRIVATE LUNCH THURSDAY, MARCH 7, IN ORDER THAT HE COULD HEAR ABOUT "MY FURTHER PLANS" AND ALSO "EXPRESS SOME OF HIS OWN CONSIDERATIONS."

4. HE ALSO NOTED "LARGE NUMBER OF PRESS STORIES" ON SALT, INCLUDING THOSE IN THIS MORNING'S PRESS QUOTING SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND ON STOESSEL'S PRESENTATION CREDENTIALS. I SAID THAT AS I HAD PREVIOUSLY REMARKED, BECAUSE OF THE VERY HIGH LEVEL OF THE ATTENTION NOW FOCUSED ON SALT, HE HAD TO EXPECT PRESS STORIES AND PRESS SPECULATION. I SAID THAT IT WAS MY OBSERVATION THAT THUS FAR, WHILE SOME OF THESE STORIES HAD VARIOUS BITS AND PIECES OF THE FACTS, NONE OF THEM HAD FULLY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE WHOLE SITUATION IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS. (I ALSO NOTED NONE HAD ORIGINATED FROM GENEVA.) AS FAR AS SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT IS CONCERNED, I SAID THAT THIS MORNING'S STORY SIMPLY INVOLVED THE RELEASE OF THE TEXT OF THE FORMAL STATEMENT WHICH THE SECRETARY HAD GIVEN TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND DID NOT INVOLVE ANYTHING DIFFERENT FROM THE SECRETARY'S INFORMAL REMARKS, WHICH NITZE HAD GIVEN SHCHUKIN SOMETIME AGO. I SAID THOSE INFORMAL REMARKS CONTAINED THE FULL EXPRESSION OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S VIEWS. SEMENOV INDICATED THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THEM. JOHNSON

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PAGE 03 SALT T 01440 051527Z

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